

Exquisite Jiangnan-style embroidery draws inspiration from Chinese painting

Yang Yujie and Wang Jie

Onlookers might mistake the needlework displayed at the ongoing Jiangnan Boudoir Embroidery Art Exhibition, with bright colors and exquisite textures, for a Chinese painting.

In actuality, the Jiangnan Boudoir Embroidery is a traditional form of silk embroidery that combines literati painting, calligraphy and needlework.

It has been practiced in Jiading District and the surrounding areas since the Ming (1368-1644) and Qing (1644-1911) eras, and is usually created by women in their private sitting rooms.

In March, the Jiangnan Boudoir Embroidery was included in the 12th batch of Jiading's representative intangible cultural heritages.

The exhibition not only features works of the inheritors of the Jiangnan Boudoir Embroidery, artistic creations from both the "Huiniangzi" team and Donghua University students, but also 31 pieces (sets) of exhibits of silk embroidery literature, antiquities from the Qing Dynasty and the Republic of China, boudoir embroidery utensils, and household items collected by the Huixiu Cultural Space.

Huang Ruogu, aged 5, created the "Beautiful Flowers" embroidery.

"This work is based on a masterpiece of Huang Binhong (1865-1955), a modern Chinese painter and art theorist, which I embroidered with silk thread," the girl said. "Every time I finished the petals, I felt like the flower was blooming."



Embroidery works created by children — Yang Yujie

Seven-year-old Huang Ruoxi, meanwhile, spent a month working on a needlework called "Village near the Mountain and River." The artwork draws inspiration from a painting of Luo Pin (1733-99), one of the "Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou" in the Qing Dynasty.

The grey bricks and white walls are vividly mirrored at

the creator's fingertips.

"When I first saw it, I assumed it was a painting. But after taking a closer look, I found it was embroidered stitch by stitch, which is amazing!" exclaimed a visitor surnamed Xu.

One of the exhibition's highlights is an embroidery piece produced by Fan Dongmei, an inheritor



Above: Fan Dongmei (left) and Huang Yi compare the needlepoint artwork with the brushstrokes in a book painting.

Left: Silk thread used for embroidery

of the Jiangnan Boudoir Embroidery. It is based on the painting of Qian Daxin (1728-1804), a scholar in Jiading during the Qing Dynasty. The Jiading Museum owns the original work, and Fan's piece is embroidered to the original scale.

"In order to recreate the work by embroidery, she must first interpret the vibe in the original painting and then use different stitches and colors to render an impressive visual effect," said

Huang Yi, Fan's husband who is also the director of the project on Jiangnan Boudoir Embroidery preservation.

Although the original painting is in ink, Fan used approximately 30 different hues threads for the entire piece, including more than a dozen for the calligraphic characters alone.

Date: Through August 31, 8:30am-8pm

Venue: Jiading District Cultural Center

Address: 33 Taxi Rd

Lu Yanshao's inkwash paintings light up Chenjiashan Park



Lu Yanshao was a Chinese landscape painter known for his use of bold brushstrokes.

Wang Jie

AN exhibition of freehand inkwash paintings by Lu Yanshao (1909-93) is on display in Chenjiashan Park.

Lu, who was born in Jiading's Nanxiang Town, was an innovative Chinese

landscape painter of the 20th century. The artist excelled at painting landscapes with imposing mountains, large expanses of water and brisk clouds.

He produced a huge quantity of work. They were brilliant in their

genres and subject matter. His most characteristic paintings are of plums in bloom, but his works also include lotus, orchids, and bamboo, as well as fruit and vegetables.

Lu's vibrant and delicate rendering of vivid lotus flowers and buds, with

petals interspersed with leaves, conjures up images of a wonderfully layered scene.

Date: Through October 8 (closed on Mondays), 10am-4:30pm

Venue: Chenjiashan Park

Address: 860 Pingcheng Rd